WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a hardware resource;

a program;

an examining unit that examines said hardware resource;

a configuration unit in which a relation between said examining unit and said program is configured; and

an activating unit that activates said program having the relation with said examining unit based on the examination of said hardware resource.

2. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said configuration unit configures a one-to-one relation between said examining unit and said program.

3. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said configuration unit configures a one-to-"n" (n: an integer more than 1) relation between said examining unit and a plurality of said programs.

4. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said configuration unit configures an "n"-to-one (n: an integer more than 1) relation between a plurality of said examining units and said program.

5. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a storage unit in which the result of the examination is stored;

wherein

said examining unit determines whether the result of the examination that said examining unit is

to perform is stored in said storage unit, and uses, if the result of the examination that said examining unit is to perform is stored in said storage unit, the stored result of the examination.

6. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein

said activating unit activates said examining unit in compliance with the relation configured in said configuration unit.

7. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein said activating unit, after activating said program, terminates said examining unit.

8. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said examining unit determines whether said hardware resource exists, and outputs, in response to a positive determination, a normal value and outputs, in response to a negative determination, an abnormal value as the result of the examination.

9. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein

said examining unit determines, if a device driver corresponding to said hardware resource can be successfully opened or is already opened, that said hardware resource exists, and determines that said hardware resource does not exist otherwise.

10. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein,

in response to receipt of the normal value

output by said examining unit in the determination as to whether said hardware resource exists that operates partially or entirely as one of a printer, a copier, a facsimile machine, and a scanner, said activating unit activates said program corresponding to the one of the printer, the copier, the facsimile machine, and the scanner.

11. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said examining unit determines whether said hardware resource exists, and outputs, in response to a negative determination, a normal value and outputs, in response to a positive determination, an abnormal value as the result of the examination.

12. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein

in response to receipt of the normal value

output by said examining unit in the determination as to whether a hard disk drive exists, said activating unit mounts a RAM disk in compliance with the relation configured in said configuration unit.

13. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said examining unit determines whether said hardware resource satisfies a predetermined performance requirement, and outputs, in response to a positive determination, a normal value and outputs, in response to a negative determination, an abnormal value as the result of the determination.

14. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein

in response to receipt of the normal value output by said examining unit in the determination as to whether a central processing unit satisfies a

predetermined performance requirement, said activating unit activates said program having the relation with said examining unit, and

in response to receipt of the abnormal value output by said examining unit, said activating unit does not activate said program having the relation with said examining unit.

15. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein

said activating unit, in response to receipt of the normal value from said examining unit as the result of a memory check, activates said program related to said examining unit in said configuration unit, and in response to receipt of the abnormal value from said examining unit as the result of the memory check, does not activate said program.

16. The image forming apparatus as claimed

in claim 13, wherein

said configuration unit configures the relation between said examining unit and one of a directory in which said program is located and an upper directory thereof; and

said activating unit, in response to receipt of the normal value as a result of the determination, mounts the directory or the upper directory related to said examining unit, and in response to receipt of the abnormal value as the result of the determination, mounts neither the directory nor the upper directory.

17. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein

said examining unit determines whether a predetermined identifier of said hardware resource satisfies a predetermined condition, outputs a normal value in response to a positive determination, and outputs an abnormal value in response to a negative determination.

18. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein

said examining unit determines whether an identifier stored in an SD card matches an identifier of a slot to which the SD card is inserted, outputs a normal value in response to a positive determination, and outputs an abnormal value in response to a negative determination.

19. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein

said activating unit executes said program configured in said configuration unit as related to said examining unit in response to receipt of the normal value from said examining unit as the result of the determination, and does not execute said program configured in said configuration unit as related to said examining unit in response to receipt of the abnormal value from said examining unit as the result of the determination.

20. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein

said storage unit is a memory region that said examining unit can directly access.

21. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein

said activating unit is activated by an operating system that is activated after the power of the image forming apparatus is turned on.

22. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said program further comprises:

an application program used for image forming;

a control service program that manages said hardware resource used for the image forming; and

an operating system.

23. A method of activating a program for an image forming apparatus including a hardware resource, wherein the program causes the hardware resource to form an image, comprising the steps of:

interpreting a configuration unit in which is configured a relation between the program and an examining unit that examines the hardware resource;

activating the examining unit based on a result of the interpretation; and

activating the program having the relation with the examining unit based on a result of the examination by the examining unit.

24. A computer program that causes a computer having a hardware resource and a program to function as:

an examining unit that examines said hardware resource;

a configuration unit in which a relation between said examining unit and said program is configured; and

an activating unit that activates said

program having the relation with said examining unit based on the examination.

25. An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a hardware resource;

a program;

a configuration unit in which a relation between examining processing and said program is configured; and

an activating unit that performs the examining processing and activates said program having the relation with the examining processing based on the result of the examining processing.

26. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein said configuration unit configures a one-to-one relation between the examining processing and said program.

27. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein said configuration unit configures a one-to-"n" (n: an integer more than 1) relation between the examining processing and a plurality of said programs.

28. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein said configuration unit configures an "n"-to-one (n: an integer more than 1) relation between the examining processing and said program.

29. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 25, further comprising:

a storage unit in which the result of the examining processing is stored;

wherein

said activating unit determines whether the result of the examining processing that said

activating unit is to perform is stored in said storage unit, and uses, if the result of the examining processing that said activating unit is to perform is stored in said storage unit, the stored result of the examining processing.

30. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein

said activating unit performs the examining processing in accordance with the relation configured in said configuration unit.

31. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein said activating unit, after activating said program, terminates the examining processing.

32. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein

said activating unit determines whether said hardware resource exists by performing the examining processing, and acquires, in response to a positive determination, a normal value and acquires, in response to a negative determination, an abnormal value as the result of the examining processing.

33. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 32, wherein

if a device driver corresponding to said hardware resource can be successfully opened or is already opened, said activating unit determines as the result of the examining processing that said hardware resource exists and otherwise determines that said hardware resource does not exist.

34. The image forming apparatus as claimed

in claim 32, wherein,

in response to acquisition of the normal value in the determination as to whether said hardware resource exists that operates partially or entirely as one of a printer, a copier, a facsimile machine, and a scanner, said activating unit activates said program corresponding to the one of the printer, the copier, the facsimile machine, and the scanner.

35. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein said activating unit determines whether said hardware resource exists by performing the examining processing, and acquires, in response to a negative determination, a normal value and acquires, in response to a positive determination, an abnormal value as the result of the examination.

36. The image forming apparatus as claimed

in claim 35, wherein

in response to acquisition of the normal value in the determination as to whether a hard disk drive exists, said activating unit mounts a RAM disk in accordance with the relation configured in said configuration unit.

37. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein said activating unit determines whether said hardware resource satisfies a predetermined performance requirement by performing the examining processing, and acquires, in response to a positive determination, a normal value and acquires, in response to a negative determination, an abnormal value as the result of the determination.

38. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 37, wherein

in response to acquisition of the normal

value in the determination whether a central processing unit satisfies a predetermined performance requirement, said activating unit activates said program having the relation with the examining processing, and

in response to acquisition of the abnormal value, said activating unit does not activate said program having the relation with the examining processing.

39. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 37, wherein

said activating unit, in response to acquisition of the normal value as the result of a memory check, activates said program related to the examining processing designated in said configuration unit, and in response to acquisition of the abnormal value as the result of the memory check, does not activate said program.

40. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 37, wherein

said configuration unit configures the relation between the examining processing and one of a directory in which said program is located and an upper directory thereof; and

said activating unit, in response to acquisition of the normal value as a result of the determination, mounts the directory or the upper directory related to the examining processing, and in response to acquisition of the abnormal value as the result of the determination, mounts neither the directory nor the upper directory.

41. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 26, wherein

said activating unit determines whether a predetermined identifier of said hardware resource satisfies a predetermined condition by performing the examining processing, acquires a normal value in response to a positive determination, and acquires an abnormal value in response to a negative

determination.

42. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 41, wherein

said activating unit determines whether an identifier stored in an SD card matches an identifier of a slot to which the SD card is inserted, acquires a normal value in response to a positive determination, and acquires an abnormal value in response to a negative determination.

43. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 41, wherein

said activating unit executes said program configured in said configuration unit as related to the examining processing in response to acquisition of the normal value as the result of the determination, and does not execute said program configured in said configuration unit as related to

the examining processing in response to acquisition of the abnormal value as the result of the determination.

44. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein

said storage unit is a memory region that said activating unit can directly access.

45. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein

said activating unit is activated by an operating system that is activated after the power of the image forming apparatus is turned on.

46. The image forming apparatus as claimed

in claim 25, wherein said program further comprises:

an application program used for image forming;

a control service program that manages said hardware resource used for the image forming; and

an operating system.

47. A method of activating a program for an image forming apparatus including a hardware resource, wherein the program causes the hardware resource to form an image, comprising the steps of:

interpreting a configuration unit in which is configured a relation between the program and examining processing that examines the hardware resource;

performing the examining processing based on a result of the interpretation; and

activating the program having the relation with the examining processing based on a result of the examination by an activating unit.

48. A computer program that causes a computer having a hardware resource and a program to function as:

a configuration unit in which a relation between examining processing and said program is configured; and

an activating unit that performs the examining processing and activates said program having the relation with the examining processing based on the examination.

49. An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a hardware resource;

a slot that accepts a recording medium in which a program to be mounted and activated is stored; and

an activating unit that compares first machine information indicating an apparatus model corresponding to said program with second machine information indicating the apparatus model of the image forming apparatus, and if the first machine information and the second machine information match,

activates the program stored in the recording medium.

50. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 49, wherein

said activating unit reads a configuration file stored in the recording medium in said slot, and acquires the first machine information from a mount point of the program designated in the configuration file.

51. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 49, wherein

said activating unit acquires the second machine information by issuing a system call.

52. The image forming apparatus as claimed

in claim 49, wherein

said activating unit compares the first machine information and the second machine information, activates the program stored in the recording medium if said activating unit determines that the first machine information and the second machine information match, and does not activate the program stored in the recording medium if said activating unit determines that the first machine information and the second machine information do not match.

53. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 49, wherein

if said activating unit determines that the first machine information and the second machine information match, said activating unit activates the program that causes the image forming apparatus to function as one or more of a printer, a copier, a facsimile machine, and a scanner.

54. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 49, wherein

said activating unit is activated by an operating system activated in response to turning on the image forming apparatus.

55. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 50, wherein

said activating unit acquires the first machine information from a module information file located in a mount point of the program.

56. An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a hardware resource;

a slot that accepts a recording medium in which a program to be mounted and activated is stored; and

an activating unit that compares first identification information of a slot into which the

recording medium is to be inserted and second identification information of a slot into which the recording medium is actually inserted, and activates the program stored in the recording medium if said activating unit determines that the first identification information and the second identification information match.

57. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein

said activating unit reads a configuration file stored in the recording medium in said slot, and acquires the first identification information from the configuration file.

58. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein

said activating unit acquires the second identification information by issuing a system call.

59. The image forming as claimed in claim 56, wherein

said activating unit compares the first identification information and the second identification information, activates the program stored in the recording medium if said activating unit determines that the first identification information and the second identification information match, and does not activate the program stored in the recording medium if said activating unit determines that the first identification information and the second identification information do not match.

60. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 57, wherein

if the first identification information is not contained in the configuration file read from the recording medium, said activating unit activates the program to be mounted and activated stored in the recording medium.

61. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein

if said activating unit determines that the first identification information and the second identification information match, said activating unit activates the program to be mounted and activated that causes the image forming apparatus to function as one or more of a printer, a copier, a facsimile machine, and a scanner.

62. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein

said activating unit is activated by an operating system activated in response to turning on the image forming apparatus.

63. A method of activating a program for an image forming apparatus having a slot into which a

recording medium is inserted, comprising the steps of:

comparing first machine information indicating an apparatus model corresponding to a program to be mounted and activated stored in the recording medium with second machine information indicating an apparatus model of the image forming apparatus; and

activating, if a determination is made that the first machine information and the second machine information match, the program to be mounted and activated.

64. A method of activating a program for an image forming apparatus having a slot into which a recording medium is inserted, comprising the steps of:

comparing first identification information of the slot into which the recording medium is to be inserted with second identification information of the slot into which the recording medium is actually inserted; and

activating, if a determination is made that the first identification information and the second identification information match, the program to be mounted and activated.

65. A computer program that causes a computer having a hardware resource and a slot that accepts a recording medium in which a program to be mounted and activated is stored, to function as:

an activating unit that compares first machine information indicating an apparatus model corresponding to said program with second machine information indicating the apparatus model of the image forming apparatus, and if the first machine information and the second machine information match, activates the program stored in the recording medium.

66. A computer readable recording medium storing the computer program as claimed in claim 65.

67. A computer program that causes a computer having a hardware resource and a slot that accepts a recording medium in which a program to be mounted and activated is stored, to function as:

an activating unit that compares first identification information of a slot into which the recording medium is to be inserted and second identification information of a slot into which the recording medium is actually inserted, and activates the program stored in the recording medium if said activating unit determines that the first identification information and the second identification information match.

68. A computer readable recording medium storing the computer program as claimed in claim 67.